

## OPEN LETTERS

A large *Quercus agrifolia* tree in Santa Clara County

On a ranch four miles west of Gilroy is a very large Live Oak tree, a perfect symmetrical specimen without a sign of rot. Its maximum crown spread is 123 feet and the minimum spread 110 feet. It has a height of 87 feet 6 inches. At the ground the trunk is 37 feet 6 inches in circumference; at two feet up, it is 30 feet in circumference; at five up it is 27 feet 6 inches in circumference; eight feet up, it is 30 feet 9 inches in circumference. The trunk then branches into three evenly spaced limbs. These limbs at about ten feet up are respectively 15 feet 6 inches, 14 feet 5 inches, 13 feet 7 inches in circumference. These dimensions appear to be larger than those for any oak given in Jepson's *Trees of California*.—W. J. HANNA, Reaoaks Ranch, Gilroy, Oct. 14, 1924.

## NOTES AND NEWS

A region which is compared to a distorted ellipse indicates the bounds of an Annotated Flora of the Chicago Area by Dr. H. S. Pepoon. About 45 miles wide, extending from Mt. Tom to the Waukegan Moors, the region is divided into six floral areas, the vegetation of each of which is described in relation to the topography and edaphic factors. A systematic list with keys follows. The book, well illustrated by photographs, is an admirable production. It forms Bulletin Seven of the National History Survey, Chicago Academy of Sciences. It may well serve as a model for similar great population centers where an interest in nature study on the part of the general public needs to be satisfied.—W. L. J.

Mr. Knowles A. Ryerson, formerly of the agricultural department of Los Angeles County, was in 1928 appointed chief of the Office of Foreign Plant Introduction of the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C.

Dr. Ralph W. Chaney of the Carnegie Institution gave three illustrated lectures on the history of *Sequoia gigantea* in Giant Forest, Sequoia Park, July 4 to 6.

"A Spring Flora of Northwestern Oregon" (153 pages) has been issued by Dr. Helen M. Gilkey, Associate Professor of Botany in the Oregon State College, Corvallis. It contains a single key to all the included species and is fully illustrated, being designed to help beginners to help themselves. As an introduction to a study of the flowering plants of Oregon the book will, we believe, be highly welcome and of real value to the increasing list of persons interested in the native vegetation of the woods and fields of that region.